

CLAIMS

1. A storage unit, comprising:

a top panel;

a bottom panel;

a pair of opposing side panels attached to the top and bottom panels;

a back panel attached to the side panels so as to define a housing having an interior;

a plurality of shelf members positioned within the interior of the housing and arranged in a vertically oriented fashion, the shelf members being removably mounted to the opposing side panels; and

a plurality of divider members removably positioned between (i) each pair of consecutive shelf members, (ii) the top panel and an uppermost shelf member and (iii) the bottom panel and a lowermost shelf member, the divider members defining a plurality of open compartments and being configured to be repositioned to provide open compartments of varying sizes.

2. The storage unit according to claim 1 wherein the back panel is rigidly attached to the opposing side panels, top panel and back panel, the shelf members being removably mounted to the back panel.

3. The storage unit according to claim 1 wherein the back panel is slidably attached to the opposing side panels.

1 4. The storage unit according to claim 1 wherein the top panel has a longitudinally
2 extending axis and includes a bottom side confronting the interior of the housing, the
3 storage unit further comprising a rail member attached to the bottom side of the top
4 panel such that the rail member extends in substantially the same direction as the
5 longitudinally extending axis, the rail member includes a plurality of spaced slots
6 formed therein, each slot being sized to receive a portion of a corresponding divider
7 member.

8
9 5. The storage unit according to claim 4 wherein each slot is oriented such that
10 the slot is generally perpendicular to the longitudinally extending axis.

11
12 6. The storage unit according to claim 5 wherein the slots are equidistantly
13 spaced.

14
15 7. The storage unit according to claim 4 wherein each shelf member has a top
16 side, a bottom side, and a pair of opposing lengthwise end portions, each lengthwise
17 end portion extending upward with respect to the top side, each lengthwise end
18 portion having a plurality of slots formed therein, each slot being sized for receiving
19 a portion of divider member.

20
21 8. The storage unit according to claim 7 wherein each shelf member has a
22 longitudinally extending axis, the slots in the lengthwise end portions being oriented
23 such that the slots are generally perpendicular to the longitudinally extending axis,

the lengthwise end portions being generally parallel to the longitudinally extending axis.

9. The storage unit according to claim 8 wherein each slot of the rail member is substantially coplanar with a corresponding slot in each lengthwise end of the shelf member.

10. The storage unit according to claim 7 wherein the slots of the lengthwise end portions of each shelf member are equidistantly spaced.

11. The storage unit according to claim 7 wherein each lengthwise end portion is generally triangular shaped, each lengthwise end portion having a first portion angulated with respect to the top side, and a second portion that is angulated with respect to the first portion, the slots of the lengthwise end portions of the shelf members being located in the first portion of each lengthwise end portion.

12. The storage unit according to claim 8 wherein each shelf member further comprises:

a first plurality of pairs of protruding members extending downward from the bottom side of the shelf member and located near one of the lengthwise end portions; and

a second plurality of pairs of protruding members extending downward from the bottom side of the shelf member and located near the other lengthwise end

1 portion, each of the second plurality of pairs of protruding members
2 corresponding to a particular one of the first plurality of pairs of protruding
3 members so as to define a set of pairs of protruding members;

4 said shelf member further including a plurality of laterally extending axes that are
5 substantially perpendicular to the longitudinally extending axis, each laterally
6 extending axis corresponding to a set of pairs of protruding members and
7 being substantially coplanar with a corresponding slot in one of the
8 lengthwise end portions and a corresponding slot in the other lengthwise end
9 portions, the protruding members in each pair of the set being offset in
10 opposite directions from the corresponding laterally extending axis such that
11 one protruding member in each of said pairs of protruding members is
12 located on one side of the laterally extending axis and the other protruding
13 member in each of said pairs of protruding members is located on the other
14 side of the laterally extending axis; and

15 wherein when each divider member is positioned on a particular shelf member that
16 is below an upper shelf member, a portion of the divider member is
17 positioned along a corresponding laterally extending axis of the upper shelf
18 member such that one protruding member in each pair of protruding
19 members of the set is located on one side of the divider member and the
20 other protruding member in each pair of protruding members of the set is
21 located on the other side of the divider member, and portions of the divider
22 member are inserted into the slots in the lengthwise end portions wherein
23 such slots are generally coplanar with said laterally extending axis along

1 which said portion of the divider member is positioned.

2
3 13. The storage unit according to claim 12 wherein the protruding members in
4 each pair of protruding members in the set of pairs of protruding members are
5 arranged in a staggered formation with respect to the corresponding laterally
6 extending axis.

7
8 14. The storage unit according to claim 12 wherein the bottom panel has a top
9 side and a pair of opposing lengthwise end portions, each lengthwise end portion
10 extending upward with respect to the top side, each lengthwise end portion having a
11 plurality of slots formed therein, each slot being sized for receiving a portion of
12 divider member, wherein when a divider member is positioned between the bottom
13 panel and the lowermost shelf member, the divider member is positioned along a
14 corresponding laterally extending axis of the lowermost shelf member such that one
15 protruding member in each pair of protruding members of the set is located on one
16 side of the divider member and the other protruding member in each pair of
17 protruding members of the set is located on the other side of the divider member,
18 and portions of the divider member are inserted into the slots in the lengthwise end
19 portions of the bottom panel wherein such slots are substantially coplanar with the
20 laterally extending axis along which the portion of the divider member is positioned.

21
22 15. The storage unit according to claim 14 wherein the bottom panel has a
23 longitudinally extending axis, the slots in the lengthwise end portions being oriented

1 such that the slots are generally perpendicular to the longitudinally extending axis.

2
3 16. The storage unit according to claim 15 wherein each lengthwise end portion
4 of the bottom panel is generally triangular shaped, each lengthwise end portion
5 having a first portion angulated with respect to the top side, and a second portion
6 that is angulated with respect to the first portion, the slots of the lengthwise end
7 portions of the bottom panel being located in the first portion of each lengthwise end
8 portion of the bottom panel.

9
10 17. The storage unit according to claim 8 wherein each divider member
11 comprises:

12 a base member removably mounted to the top side of a shelf member, the base
13 member including a lower longitudinally extending portion having distal end
14 portions that are sized for removable insertion into a corresponding slot each
15 lengthwise end portion of a shelf member, the base member further including
16 an upper portion comprising a first plurality of upwardly protruding spaced
17 members positioned along a first longitudinally extending axis and a second
18 plurality of upwardly protruding spaced members positioned along a second
19 longitudinally extending axis, the first and second longitudinally extending
20 axes being substantially parallel to and offset from each other so as to define
21 a longitudinally extending channel between the first and second plurality of
22 protruding members; and

1 a top member removably positioned within the longitudinally extending channel.

2
3 18. The storage unit according to claim 17 wherein the divider member has a
4 height and wherein the upper portion of the base member further comprises at least
5 one resilient member positioned along the longitudinally extending channel, the
6 resilient member having a compressed state and a normal uncompressed state, the
7 resilient member having an engagement surface for engaging the top member and a
8 resiliency that allows for variation in the height of the divider member.

9
10 19. The storage unit according to claim 18 wherein the at least one resilient
11 member comprises a plurality of resilient members.

12
13 20. The storage unit according to claim 19 wherein the resilient members are
14 equidistantly spaced.

15
16 21. The storage unit according to claim 19 wherein the top member has a
17 generally planar configuration and a lower edge portion, each resilient member
18 having a flange portion contiguous with the engagement surface that abuts the lower
19 edge portion of the top member.

20
21 22. The storage unit according to claim 17 wherein one of the distal end
22 portions is a front distal end portion and the other distal end is a rear distal end
23 portion and wherein one of the first plurality of upwardly protruding members

1 includes a front most upwardly protruding member that is near the front distal end
2 portion.

3
4 23. The storage unit according to claim 17 wherein the top member has a
5 flanged front end.

6
7 24. The storage unit according to claim 23 wherein the top member has a first
8 side confronting the first plurality of upwardly protruding members and an opposite
9 second side, the top member further comprising an abutment member on the first
10 side of the top member, the abutment member being located near and spaced apart
11 from the flanged front end.

12
13 25. The storage unit according to claim 24 wherein when the top member is
14 completely positioned within the longitudinally extending channel, the front most
15 upwardly protruding member is snugly positioned between the flanged front end of
16 the top member and the abutment member so as to prevent inadvertent lateral
17 movement of the top member with respect to the base member.

18
19 26. The storage unit according to claim 24 wherein the abutment member
20 extends in a generally vertical orientation.

21
22 27. The storage unit according to claim 24 wherein the front most upwardly
23 protruding member has a slot therein.

1
2 28. The storage unit according to claim 27 when the top member is completely
3 positioned within the longitudinally extending channel, the abutment is snugly
4 positioned within the slot of the front most upwardly protruding member so as to
5 prevent inadvertent lateral movement of the top member with respect to the base
6 member.

7
8 29. The storage unit according to claim 1 wherein the back panel and opposing
9 side panels each have an interior wall and a plurality of protruding members
10 extending from the interior wall, and wherein the shelf members are removably
11 mounted to the protruding members.

12
13 30. The storage unit according to claim 29 wherein each protruding member is
14 configured as a hook.

15
16 31. The storage unit according to claim 7 further comprising a plurality of
17 drawer assemblies, each drawer assembly being positioned in a corresponding
18 compartment, each drawer assembly comprising a drawer support member that is
19 removably mounted on a shelf member and on the bottom panel, and a drawer that
20 is slidably engaged on the drawer support member.

21
22 32. The storage unit according to claim 31 wherein the drawer support member
23 comprises distal end portions, each distal end portion being sized for removable

1 insertion into a corresponding slot in one of the lengthwise end portions of the shelf
2 member.

3
4 33. The storage unit according to claim 31 wherein the drawer includes a
5 bottom side and a pair of engagement members attached to the bottom side, the
6 engagement members being spaced apart from one another, the engagement
7 members being engaged with the drawer support member.

8
9 34. The storage unit according to claim 31 wherein the drawer support member
10 has a top surface along which the drawer slides, the top surface having a wide
11 portion and a relatively narrow portion, the relatively narrow portion having a width
12 that allows the relatively narrow portion to fit between the engagement members,
13 the wide portion of the top surface engaging the engagement members so as to
14 allow the drawer to slide upon the top surface.

15
16 35. The storage unit according to claim 31 wherein each drawer has a storage
17 compartment and at least one compartment divider movably positioned within the
18 storage compartment.

19
20 36. The storage unit according to claim 31 wherein the drawers of the drawer
21 assemblies have different sizes.

22
23 37. A divider member for use with a storage unit having at least one shelf

member that has a pair of opposite lengthwise end portions, the divider member comprising:

a base member configured to be removably mounted to the shelf member, the base member including a lower longitudinally extending portion having distal end portions that are sized for removable insertion into corresponding slots the lengthwise end portions of the shelf member, the base member further including an upper portion comprising a first plurality of upwardly protruding spaced members positioned along a first longitudinally extending axis and a second plurality of upwardly protruding spaced members positioned along a second longitudinally extending axis, the first and second longitudinally extending axes being substantially parallel to and offset from each other so as to define a longitudinally extending channel between the first and second plurality of protruding members; and

a top member configured to be removably positioned within the longitudinally extending channel.

38. The divider member according to claim 37 wherein one of the distal end portions is a front distal end portion and the other distal end is a rear distal end portion and wherein one of the first plurality of upwardly protruding members includes a front most upwardly protruding member that is near the front distal end portion.

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2 39. The divider member according to claim 37 wherein the top member has a
3 flanged front end.
4

5 40. The divider member according to claim 39 wherein the top member has a
6 first side confronting the first plurality of upwardly protruding members and an
7 opposite second side, the top member further comprising an abutment member on
8 the first side of the top member, the abutment member being located near but
9 spaced apart from the flanged front end.
10

11 41. The divider member according to claim 40 wherein when the top member is
12 completely positioned within the longitudinally extending channel, the front most
13 upwardly protruding member is snugly positioned between the flanged front end of
14 the top member and the abutment member so as to prevent inadvertent lateral
15 movement of the top member with respect to the base member.
16

17 42. The divider member according to claim 40 wherein the abutment member
18 extends in a generally vertical orientation.
19

20 43. The divider member according to claim 40 wherein the front most upwardly
21 protruding member has a slot therein.
22

23 44. The divider member according to claim 43 when the top member is

completely positioned within the longitudinally extending channel, the abutment is snugly positioned within the slot of the front most upwardly protruding member so as to prevent inadvertent lateral movement of the top member with respect to the base member.

45. A drawer assembly for a storage unit having shelf members wherein each shelf member has a pair of opposite lengthwise end portions, the drawer assembly comprising:

a drawer support member configured to be removably mounted on the shelf member; and

a drawer slidably engaged on the drawer support member and having a longitudinally extending axis that extends generally parallel to the drawer support member.

46. The drawer assembly according to claim 45 wherein the drawer support member comprises distal end portions, each distal end portion being sized for removable insertion into a corresponding slot in one of the lengthwise end portions of the shelf member.

47. The drawer assembly according to claim 45 wherein the drawer includes a bottom side and a pair of engagement members that are attached to the bottom side, spaced apart from one another, and engaged with the drawer support member so as to allow the drawer to slide upon the drawer support member.

1
2 48. The drawer assembly according to claim 47 wherein the drawer support
3 member has a top surface along which the drawer slides, the top surface having a
4 wide portion and a relatively narrow portion, the relatively narrow portion having a
5 width that allows the relatively narrow portion to fit between the engagement
6 members of the drawer, the wide portion of the top surface engaging the
7 engagement members so as to allow the drawer to slide upon the top surface.

8
9 49. The drawer assembly according to claim 45 wherein each drawer has a
10 storage compartment and at least one compartment divider movably positioned
11 within the storage compartment.

12
13 50. The drawer assembly according to claim 49 wherein the drawer includes an
14 interior bottom surface within the compartment, the interior bottom surface defining at
15 least one recess that extends in a direction that is generally perpendicular to the
16 longitudinally extending axis of the drawer, and wherein the drawer further
17 comprises:

18
19 a pair of opposing sidewalls; and

20
21 a pair of guide members on each sidewall and within the storage compartment,
22 each pair of guide members being generally aligned with the recess;

1 51. The drawer assembly according to claim 50 wherein the compartment divider
2 comprises:

3
4 a base portion sized for placement in the recess; and

5
6 an upstanding portion attached to the base portion and having widthwise end
7 portions sized for placement within each pair of guide members;

8
9 wherein when the compartment divider is positioned within the storage
10 compartment, the base portion is removably positioned in the recess and the
11 widthwise end portions of the upstanding portion are removably positioned
12 between the guide members of each pair of guide members.

13
14 52. A compartment divider for a storage unit drawer having an interior bottom
15 surface, opposing sidewalls having interior sides and at least one pair of guide
16 members on the interior side of each opposing sidewall, the compartment divider
17 comprising:

18
19 a base portion sized for placement in a recess in the interior bottom surface; and

20
21 an upstanding portion attached to the base portion and having widthwise end
22 portions sized for placement between the guide members of each pair of
23 guide members; and

1
2 wherein when the compartment divider is positioned within the drawer, the base
3 portion is removably positioned in the recess and the widthwise end portions
4 of the upstanding portion are removably positioned between the guide
5 members of each pair of guide members.
6

7 53. A divider member for use with a storage unit, the divider member comprising a
8 generally planar body portion, front flanged end portion, a rear end portion, a top
9 lengthwise end portion and a bottom lengthwise end portion, the divider member
10 further comprising at least one extending portion that extends from the top
11 lengthwise end and is generally coplanar with the generally planar body portion.
12

13 54. The divider member according to claim 53 wherein the generally planar body
14 portion is generally rectangular in shape.
15

16 55. The divider member according to claim 53 wherein the at least one extending
17 portion is generally semi-circular in shape.
18

19 56. A divider member for use with a storage unit having at least one shelf
20 member that has a pair of opposite lengthwise end portions, the divider member
21 comprising:
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23 a base member configured to be removably mounted to the shelf member, the base

1 member including a lower longitudinally extending portion having distal end
2 portions that are sized for removable insertion into corresponding slots in the
3 lengthwise end portions of the shelf member, the base member further
4 including an upper portion comprising a first plurality of upwardly protruding
5 spaced members positioned along a first longitudinally extending axis and a
6 second plurality of upwardly protruding spaced members positioned along a
7 second longitudinally extending axis, the first and second longitudinally
8 extending axes being substantially parallel to and offset from each other so
9 as to define a longitudinally extending channel between the first and second
10 plurality of protruding members;

11
12 a top member configured to be removably positioned within the longitudinally
13 extending channel; and

14
15 at least one resilient member positioned along the longitudinally extending channel,
16 the resilient member having a compressed state and a normal uncompressed
17 state, the resilient member having an engagement surface for engaging the
18 top member and a resiliency that allows for variation in the height of the
19 divider member.